

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as indicated on the following page.

~~Recycling of ionic liquids in extractive distillation~~

Abstract

Process for working up a bottom stream comprising wherein high boilers and ionic liquid from an extractive rectification in which the ionic liquid is used as entrainer, which comprises . The process includes feeding the bottom stream to an evaporation stage which is operated at a pressure of less than 500 mbar or to a stripper which is operated by means through use of inert gas or steam, and the major part of the high boiler present is separated off in vapor form from the ionic liquid.